

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a programmed computer system for use in connection with the sale of stock by a first entity, which method comprises the steps of, comprising:

inputting utilizing a computer to input data regarding the a sale, by the first entity a company to a second another entity, of a security consisting of: (i) a post-paid forward contract which obligates the second other entity to purchase a fixed number of shares stock of the first entity company; and (ii) debt;

inputting utilizing a computer to input data regarding the a purchase, by the first entity company from the second other entity, of a pre-paid forward contract which obligates the second other entity to deliver to the first entity company a variable number of shares of stock in the first entity company;

inputting utilizing a computer to input a then-current stock price associated with the stock of the first entity company;

calculating utilizing a computer to calculate a number of shares underlying the pre-paid forward contract, based on a formula that is a function of a then-current stock price and a remaining maturity associated with the pre-paid forward contract;

recording utilizing a computer to record the data regarding the sale, by the first entity company to the second other entity, of the security consisting of: (i) the post-paid forward contract; and (ii) the debt;

recording utilizing a computer to record the data regarding the purchase, by the first entity company from the second other entity, of the pre-paid forward contract; and

recording utilizing a computer to record the calculated number of shares underlying the pre-paid forward contract;

wherein the pre-paid forward contract comprises a call option.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the stock of the ~~first entity~~ company is common stock in a public company.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the post-paid forward contract obligates the ~~first entity~~ company to sell and the ~~second~~ other entity to purchase, at maturity of the post-paid forward contract, a fixed number of shares of stock in the ~~first entity~~ company for a fixed price.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim 4, wherein the fixed price ~~essentially~~ equals a face amount of the debt.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the ~~first entity~~ company pays, to the ~~second~~ other entity, a contract fee on the post-paid forward contract.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim 6, wherein the contract fee is paid once.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim 6, wherein the contract fee is paid periodically at a time selected from the group including: (a) daily; (b) weekly; (c) monthly; (d) quarterly; (e) semi-annually; and (f) annually.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the debt is initially pledged as collateral to secure the obligations of the ~~second~~ other entity under the post-paid forward contract.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim 9, wherein the ~~second~~ other entity has the right to recollateralize the post-paid forward contract.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the debt pays a fixed cash coupon, subject to reset.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~security~~ method of claim 11, wherein the coupon is paid periodically at a time selected from the group including: (a) daily; (b) weekly; (c) monthly; (d) quarterly; (e) semi-annually; and (f) annually.

13. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim 12, wherein the coupon is reset and the debt is remarketed.

14. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the pre-paid forward contract obligates the ~~second other~~ entity to deliver to the ~~first-entity~~ company a variable number of shares of stock in the ~~first-entity~~ company depending on a price of the stock at maturity of the pre-paid forward contract.

15. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim 14, wherein the ~~first-entity~~ company pre-pays the purchase price of the stock and need not pay for the stock at the time of delivery.

16. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the purchase price of the stock is paid to the ~~second other~~ entity at the time of issuance of the pre-paid forward contract with the remaining portion funded through periodic contract payments.

17. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim 16, wherein the contract payments are paid periodically at a time selected from the group including: (a) daily; (b) weekly; (c) monthly; (d) quarterly; (e) semi-annually; and (f) annually.

18. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein, prior to maturity of the pre-paid forward contract, the ~~first-entity~~ company has the right to fix the number of shares underlying the pre-paid forward contract, based on a formula that is a function of a then-current stock price and a remaining maturity associated with the pre-paid forward contract.

19. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the post-paid forward contract and the debt are initially pledged as collateral to secure the obligations of the ~~second other~~ entity to deliver stock pursuant to the pre-paid forward contract.

20. (Currently Amended) The security method of claim 19, wherein the ~~second other~~ entity has the right to recollateralize the pre-paid forward contract with common stock of the ~~first entity~~ company .